

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

STEINER, TODD M. 1986. *Eumeces inexpectatus*.

***Eumeces inexpectatus* Taylor**
Southeastern five-lined skink

Plestiodon quinquelineatus: Holbrook, 1838:39-41, pl. VI. The plate depicts this species.

Eumeces quinquelineatus: Bocourt, 1879:426-428 (part).

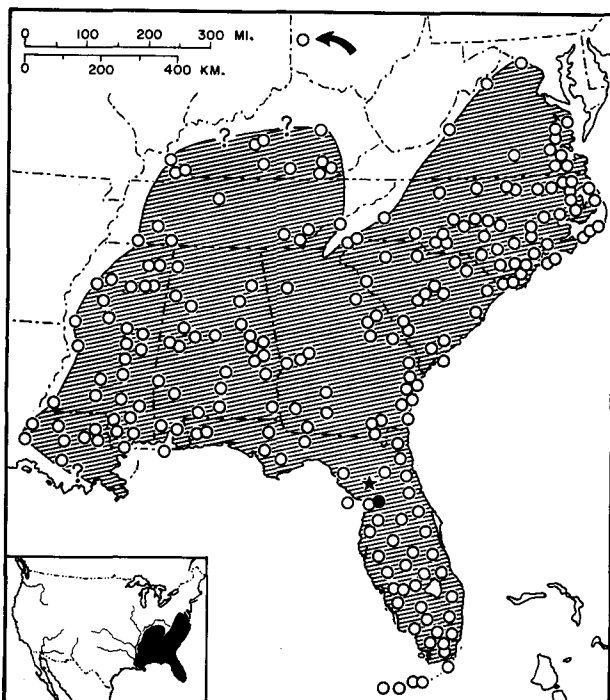
Eumeces inexpectatus Taylor, 1932:251. Type-locality, "Citrus County, Florida." Holotype, Univ. Kansas Mus. Natur. Hist. 8232, male, collected by Charles H. Burt on 7 March 1930 (examined by author). See COMMENT.

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Eumeces inexpectatus* is a medium sized skink (maximum snout-vent length 89 mm, total length 140-216 mm, hatchling total length 64 mm), with 7 or 8 upper labials; 29-36 scale rows at midbody (usually 30, 31, or 32); and subcaudal scales that are not distinctly enlarged (when tail is not regenerated). The dorsolateral stripe is on the 4th and 5th (or only 5th) scale row (counted from middorsal row). Young have a dark dorsum with light middorsal and brown dorsolateral and lateral stripes, and a bright blue tail. Colors normally fade in adult males, and some appear uniform brown with orange heads. Females retain more of the juvenile striped pattern. The presence of a midventral subcaudal scale row which is not wider than adjacent scale rows, and a middorsal stripe on the 4th and 5th scale rows distinguish this species from *E. fasciatus* and *E. laticeps*, both of which have a middorsal stripe on the 3rd and 4th scale rows and whose midventral subcaudal scale row is distinctly wider than adjacent scale rows.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The original description is in Taylor (1932). Detailed descriptions of scalation, pattern, and variation are in Taylor (1935), Smith (1946), Davis (1968), and Mount (1975).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Holbrook (1838) included a color plate of this species (see synonymy). Other color illustrations are in Barbour (1971), Conant (1975), Behler and King (1979), and Martof et al. (1980). Black and white photographs are in Taylor (1932, 1935), Smith (1946), Bogert and Cowles (1947) and Mount (1975). Line drawings of scutellation appear in Taylor (1935).



MAP. The solid circles mark the type-locality; open circles indicate other selected localities. Star indicates fossil site. Question marks indicate uncertain range boundary.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Eumeces inexpectatus* occurs from Virginia and Kentucky southward through all of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, and westward to eastern Louisiana and the western part of Tennessee. One specimen has been collected in southwestern Ohio (Ashton, 1976). It is also found on offshore islands in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama. Distribution maps are in Taylor (1935), Fitch (1954), Barbour (1971) and Mount (1975).

• FOSSIL RECORD. A *Eumeces* from Pleistocene deposits in Wiliston, Levy County, Florida, was provisionally assigned to *E. inexpectatus* by Holman (1959).

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Comprehensive works on systematics and relationships are Taylor (1935), Davis (1968), and Murphy et al. (1983). A general review of biology is in Fitch (1954). Habitat and habits are described by Carr (1940, Florida), Barbour (1971, Kentucky), and Mount (1975, Alabama). Duellman and Schwartz (1958) provide data on biology of the south Florida population. Clutch size data are in Smith and List (1955, Mississippi), Duellman and Schwartz (1958, Florida), Hamilton (1958, Florida), Rundquist and Collins (1974, Kentucky), and Mount (1975, Alabama). Food habit notes include Hamilton (1958), Telford (1959), Hamilton and Pollack (1961), and Rundquist and Collins (1974). Behavioral studies include Wilder (1962), Powell and Peck (1970), Loop and Scoville (1972), and Perrill (1980). Engels (1949) and Ober (1969) offer information on the species' ability to colonize islands. Funderburg and Lee (1968) and Lee (1969) comment on microhabitat use. Snake predators include *Agkistrodon* (Wharton, 1966) and *Micrurus* (Jackson and Franz, 1981). Mount (1981) notes a decline in the population of *E. inexpectatus* in the Alabama Coastal Plain, possibly due to predation by the imported fire ant. Guttman (1971) determined the hemoglobin phenotype, and Telford (1978) listed hemoparasites. Pigmentation in relation to ultraviolet transmission was studied by Hunsaker and Johnson (1959). The basilar membrane and cochlea were studied by Schmidt (1964). Bogert and Cowles (1947) reported critical maximum and normal body temperatures, and rapid moisture loss. Distributional data by state are as follows: Alabama—Taylor (1935), Jackson and Jackson (1970), Mount (1975); Florida—Taylor (1935), Carr (1940), Duellman and Schwartz (1958); Georgia—Taylor (1935), Neill (1948), Martof (1956), Ringler (1977), Kiviat (1982); Kentucky—Reese (1949), Barbour (1971), Barbour and Ernst (1971), Rundquist and Collins (1974); Louisiana—Taylor (1935); Mississippi—Taylor (1935), Smith and List (1955), Cliburn (1959), Ferguson (1961), Boyd and Vickers (1963); North Carolina—Taylor (1935), Brimley (1944), Robertson and Tyson (1950), Palmer and Whitehead (1961), Bruce (1965); Ohio—Ashton (1976); South Carolina—Taylor (1935); Virginia—Richmond and Goin (1938), Hoffman (1945, 1953), Reed (1956); Tennessee—Gentry et al. (1965).

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *inexpectatus* probably refers to the unexpected discovery of this sibling species.

COMMENT

Distinguishing this species from its sympatric siblings *E. fasciatus* and *E. laticeps* requires careful examination and comparison of specimens. Literature references to *E. fasciatus* before 1932, when *E. inexpectatus* was recognized as a distinct species, may refer to *E. inexpectatus*, or to a composite of these sibling species. *Eumeces inexpectatus* appears to be extinct in the Dry Tortugas.

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